



Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU)

Ministry of Finance

Government of Liberia



Macro Fiscal Unit, Ministry of Finance

Background

Liberia has undergone profound changes over the past few years. A country long known for civil and political strife is recovering quickly under a democratically elected government. The African Development Bank is supporting the Government of Liberia's efforts to continue to strengthen public financial management systems, which have improved markedly over the past few years. The Government of Liberia's (GoL) Ministry of Finance (MOF) is yet to fully implement its responsibilities for fiscal policy formulation and implementation. Existing capacity has been absorbed by short-term operational activities in a context of poor business processes; strategic thinking and medium term planning are also in need of improvement. To improve this, The ADB's Fragile States Facility is supporting the recruitment of ONE SENIOR ECONOMIST and TWO ANALYSTS to be assigned in the Macro Fiscal Analysis unit of the Ministry of Finance.

The Macro-Fiscal Unit plays a critical role in the GoL's efforts to comprehensively reform the public financial management (PFM) system and maintaining macroeconomic stability. The Unit has a statutory role in supporting the Minister in the discharge of the responsibilities for formulating and monitoring the implementation of fiscal policy. In particular, the Unit seeks to support and strengthen the analytical basis of fiscal reforms in Liberia through research, development of tools, operational supports and training.

Since 2006, the Government of Liberia has undergone dramatic change: the introduction of the public Financial Management Act; the implementation of MTEF and policy guided budgeting; the publication of the Budget Framework Paper. All of these have been supported by the Macro Fiscal Unit.

The Macro Fiscal Unit leads the publication of the Quarterly Fiscal Outturn, leads in reporting and collating data, the publication of the Budget Framework Paper and works to develop Government fiscal policy. The Unit publishes macroeconomic data, monitor the progress of the PRS and develop economic growth policy as well as undertake analysis of fiscal data. We work in line with the Ministry of Planning to develop Government policy priorities to guide the budget process; and in the creation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and we work with the Debt Management Unit to undertake debt sustainability analyses.

The Unit works closely with external organizations, including the IMF, in developing forecasts for the Liberian economy and is working to undertake economic analysis of legislation moving through the House of Legislature. The Unit is separated into 4 sections: Fiscal Analysis and

Forecasting (FAF); Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting (MAF); Fiscal Policy and Strategy (FPS) and Public Sector Finance Data and Reporting (PSF).

It also plays a key role in the liaison between MoF and other macroeconomic management agencies outside MOF, namely the Central Bank of Liberia, Ministry of Agriculture, Civil Service Agency, LISGIS and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs.

Background to Role of Sr. Economist

The role of the senior Economist is to lead one of the above mentioned sections, and oversee the work of the economists and analysts within that unit. This will involve ensuring the unit completes its assigned projects and regular tasks as determined by the Principal Economist.

Qualifications

- This position require senior economist with technical background capable of undertaking excellent analytical work.
- Advanced degree (Master) or its equivalent in a discipline relevant to economic development or Policy and Management.
- At least five years of experience in (but not limited to) Development issues, Economic Policy analysis and Public sector issues.
- Experience in database management
- Expertise in economics and quantitative techniques
- Demonstrated ability in leading a team, and working as part of a large organization
- Demonstrable skill in report writing, and examples of your ability to adapt your writing style for different audiences

Terms of Reference

- Collect and scrutinize public finance data to ensure its accuracy and consistency; and investigate and analyze trends in the public finance data and divergences from forecasts;
- Report public finance data to external organizations in a timely and accurate fashion;
- Lead on classification (CoA, GFS), cash management and government accounting issues as relevant for the Unit;
- Manage public sector finances databases:
 - Update accurately and maintain public sector finance databases, working closely with stakeholders in the Ministry of Finance and other relevant Agencies;
 - Oversee the creation of an international fiscal database
- Analysis of Multilateral Surveillance Mechanism for ECOWAS;
- Compilation, and Analysis of Government Finance Statistics;
- Compilation of Metadata for General Data Dissemination System;
- Compile and analyses regular central Government Operations
- Timely compilation of quarterly outturn data for the Fiscal Outturn
- Collate revenue forecast data, and work with the Revenue Department to ensure it is prepared in time for the Budget Framework Paper
- Assist in the preparation of the Budget Framework Paper: Fiscal Outturn section
- Chair and organize the weekly Fiscal Monitoring Meeting
- Oversee the provision of briefs and the update of the stock brief, as requested

- Perform such other duties as may be deemed by the Principal Economist.

Within PSF:

- Data entry work as required
- Work to organize, structure and collate data
- Data analysis work as required
- Work in the implementation of a new categorization system for data

Within FAF:

- Assist, as requested, with the creation of the Budget Framework Paper
- Data entry for the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (updating the document)
- Fiscal Risks monitoring: gathering information from other departments

Within MAF:

- Work to maintain macroeconomic database
- Work to maintain international macro database
- Support research within the unit
- Provide assistance as requested in publications and briefs

Within FPS:

- Support research and policy formation by providing data, as requested
- Work to support research, as requested

How to Apply?

You are required to submit a letter of application along with a recent resume to the Address below by November 11, 2011 at 16H00 (local time). Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

The Unit Manager
Project Financial Management Unit
Ministry of Finance
P.O. Box 10-9016
1000 Monrovia 10 Liberia
Email: pfmumoflib@gmail.com

Please insert **Application for the position of Senior Economist-Macro Fiscal Unit** as subject for email or on the back of the Envelope for hard copies